

MAY TREE ART RESIDENCY
AT
ROWE CAMP AND CONFERENCE CENTER

Responsibility of the Artist

Being chosen as the artist-in-residence carries with it the responsibility to use the time for the purpose and in the spirit in which it was created.

The purpose of the May Tree Residency is to provide space, time, and a nurturing environment for a woman to contribute to the world's cultural life through her talent. The residency is intended to provide quiet surroundings and a block of uninterrupted time as an opportunity to pursue a creative goal. To serve that purpose the following expectations are being defined:

- Hawthorne funded the creation of the studio to provide a space for the artist to work, as many women do not have access to space to do their work. The expectation is that the artist will spend most of her daily hours working in the studio, with the exception of required community activities, shopping for materials, taking art classes and workshops, etc.
- Hawthorne's intention was to provide the artist with a block of uninterrupted time. The artist in residence has a responsibility to spend her time in the creative process, pursuing her art. Therefore, time away from Rowe will be limited to 2 days per month. If outside demands (personal, family, medical, etc) demand extended or frequent time away from Rowe, this is not the right time to be doing the residency.
- The artist is responsible to use her time in pursuit of her art. Working towards fulfilling her goals must be the main focus of the residency. To keep the artist on track, progress with her art work towards her goal will be reviewed each week as part of the mentoring process.

Support

A mentor will be assigned to meet with the artist once a week to provide a sounding board as well as helpful feedback. It is the responsibility of the mentor to support the artist through a successful residency as well as to hold her accountable to the expectations of the residency.

Once a month, the artist will have a visit from one of the former artists. The purpose of the meeting is to check in and see how things are going and provide support.

Artists are invited to attend one Rowe weekend conference during the 3 month residency.

The Studio

The selected artist will be provided a studio in which to live and work. The studio is located in the Rec Hall at Rowe. During the summer months, it is used as an art room for the summer camps. It carries the spirit and energy of generations of young campers as evidenced by the years of graffiti that covers the walls. During the rest of the season, the art room is transformed into the artist's studio. While the walls must remain as is, they are covered with paper or fabric to create a more open space for the artist.

The room is generous in size and one wall is all windows, letting lots of sunshine in. There is a large closet for storing supplies and a loft that can be used for a sleeping area, though many artists have chosen to have a bed or futon in the main part of the studio. The studio is heated in the winter but it is in a building that is not entirely heated. Because of the design of the building, the water to the art room gets turned off during the winter (Dec-March, depending on current temperatures), but there are heated bathrooms to access water and large thermos containers for storing water.

This is a time for the artist to unplug from her daily routine. There is a phone available in the Rec Hall for emergency purposes. Wi-fi is not available in the Rec Hall. Access to wi-fi is available in the Farmhouse.

Meals

During the week, there is no scheduled breakfast or lunch. The artist will have access to use the Farmhouse kitchen for those meals. There is generally a community dinner during weeknights and everyone is invited. On weekends, everyone eats with the guests at scheduled meal times. The kitchen is not available during days when there are scheduled programs as it is the workspace for the cooks.

The artist is welcome to bring food to the studio if she prefers to eat at her own schedule. A mini-refrigerator is provided in the studio. If the artist has a special diet that necessitates food that is not ordinarily on hand, she is expected to take care of her own needs around that both financially and in terms of cooking. Rowe generally serves vegan options on weekends.

Schedule

The artist is free to make her own schedule. She can get up when she wants, work all night if she feels called to, and tune into her own natural creative rhythms.

There is an ebb and flow to the rhythm of Rowe. Generally, there is a conference or program at Rowe each weekend and then during the week things get quiet as the staff makes the space ready for the next group. Sometimes there are mid-week programs. It is important to be aware of what is going on and mindful of the needs of the guests.

The main conference room is located in the Rec Hall, so that on weekends the sounds of people coming to and from their sessions and sometimes drumming or making music, depending on the conference topic, can be heard. It is important to observe the quiet curfew after 11 PM when there are guests sleeping in the building.

On Saturday afternoon, there is a longer program break. The artist is welcome to have an open studio at that time and invite people in. She is also welcome to sell her artwork. Rowe is to be paid a commission of 20%, which will go into the fund to establish a permanent endowment for the May Tree Residency. Artists are not required to have an open studio.

Most of the artist's time will be spent in the studio on her art, focusing on her creative pursuits as per the goals set out in her application and any goals decided on with the help of her mentor. However, everyone living in the Rowe community has some work/community responsibilities.

Community Responsibilities

- On Thursday mornings there is a community meeting and everyone living in the community is expected to attend. It runs from approx. 10:30 am – noon, though sometimes it is shorter and sometimes longer.
- After lunch on Thursday, residents participate in the community project. This is a work project directed by a staff person and all volunteers and interns participate together. It can be anything from doing a mailing to raking leaves or shoveling snow.
- Each community member is expected to cook mid-week dinner for the community once a month.
- All members are expected to clean up after themselves and everyone helps out with getting the dishes done after community meals (with the exception of the person who cooked that meal).
- The artist will be placed on the rotation for kitchen duty and will be assigned to do 3 KP's per each weekend for a total of approximately 4 hours.
- The artist will meet with her assigned mentor once a week at the day and time agreed upon.

We hope that this document provides clarity and purpose to creating a successful residency.